
Kessler, Ellen

From: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC [Stephanie.Strength@wdc.usda.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2009 3:02 PM
To: Lilley, Bliss
Cc: Collins, Carly
Subject: FW: comment on capx20/20

From: joan schnabel/jeff falk [mailto:joanjeff@centurytel.net]
Sent: Monday, July 06, 2009 4:58 PM
To: Strength, Stephanie - Washington, DC
Subject: comment on capx20/20

I-134-001 Dear Stephanie, My name is Joan Schnabel and I spoke with you at the Centerville/Galesville meeting. I sincerely hope that you do not allow them to build these lines, but if you do, they follow the I-90 corridor and cross at LaCrosse. I just got back from paddling my Kayak from Whitman Landing down to Indian Creek and back. I paddled and Snick, my Brittany, swam and ran along side. It was wonderful, Eagles, Great blue Herons, lots of Kingfishers, frogs and a zillion dragonflies mostly widow skimmers and green damers. It was so beautiful, I can't tell you, except to ask you to remember back to when you were a little girl out on the river. Would that paddle have been different next to gigantic power lines? Of course. And indeed one proposed route goes right down Kamrowski road, right by there. I cringe to think of the lines going through Trempealeau Wildlife refuge. WE have despoiled so much of our natural habitat do we have to take the refuges as well? I sometimes wonder if anyone remembers the meaning of the word "refuge?" So on behalf of all the birds that use the Mississippi flyway as their primary migration route, and the bald eagles that nest here, and the peregrine falcons that have begun returning to their traditional cyries on the cliffs on the river, and the little known, but significant population of Golden Eagles (88 on count week this January) that call this area their winter home, I ask you not to put the power lines here.

When I look at the web site for Capx 20/20 I see this quote.

"The region is experiencing tremendous job and population growth, leading to a steady increase in electricity usage. "

I-134-002 Well that didn't jibe with what I thought, so I went to the US Census data, and this region is NOT experiencing tremendous population growth. that is an out and out fabrication. It is true that Rochester, MN and because of that Omstead County are experiencing significant growth. Rochester lies to the west of the proposed lines. But if you look at the region, consisting of LaCrosse county, Houston County, Winona county, Trempealeau county and Buffalo county, the counties most impacted by these routes, there is hardly any population growth to speak of., about 3.5% over a 10 year period. I will be happy to send you the complete data, or you can find it at the census bureau site on the web. My point is, that if the Website for Capx20/20 starts off with a lie, how can I believe anything else that they are saying? I do not believe that these lines are for the benefit of this region.

I-134-003 I believe, that they will be used to carry electricity for the urban areas of Milwaukee and Chicago. I do not wish to see the aesthetics of the region damaged, and the birds and wildlife impacted for something that is of no benefit to this area.

thanks for reading this, Joan Schnabel Fountain City WI 54629 phone. 608-687-8486

I-134-001

Your comment has been noted. The criteria used to route the transmission line is described in the Macro Corridor Study which is available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. These criteria and routing process will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The project is still in the development and planning stages and the utilities have not yet permitted a route for the transmission line.

The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be available on the RUS website at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>. Comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement will be solicited after its publication.

I-134-002

Your comment has been noted. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement will describe, in detail, project purpose and need. The justification document which has been accepted by the RUS is the Alternative Evaluation study which is available at: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/ees/eis.htm>.

I-134-003

Your comment has been noted. Potential impacts to wildlife and the aesthetic quality of the areas surrounding the transmission line will be addressed in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.